UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

6/6/47
No. 245

FARM PROGRAM NEWS

FARMER-COMMITTEE SYSTEM
MAY BE PLOWED UNDER - "The farmer-committee system of the Agricultural Conservation Program which served the nation in combatting depression, which turned the tide against soil destruction and which geared farm production to the requirements of war and reestablishment of peace is on the verge of being completely wiped out by proposed cuts in agricultural appropriations", said Chairman _____ of the _____ County ACA Committee today. "Scrapping of the farm program and the committee system will put an end to a 13-year struggle for a democratic farm program administered by farmers and ranchers." _____ said that because of war-time damage to the soil, we need to reemphasize, not reduce, the effectiveness of the conservation program. Farmers and ranchers all over the nation geared their production machinery to the highest peak to produce food and fiber needed in such great quantities all over the world during the war years. Now that they are, in the words of the House Appropriations Committee, "self-reliant", the committee proposes to weaken the farmer-operated conservation program this year and bury it next year.

"In spite of our present high agricultural income and the fact that farmers and ranchers are in a sound economic position," the chairman continued, "we need to look further ahead and plan for the time when agricultural production will catch up with consumption; when surpluses will materialize and agricultural stability will again be endangered by fluctuations in prices." _____ emphasized the need for the protection offered by government price supports and other features of the Agricultural Conservation Program which have represented one of agriculture's greatest assets during the past 13 years.

(MORE)

GROWERS TO RECEIVE
COTTON POOL PROCEEDS - "Cotton growers who did not redeem their 1943-crop cotton under loan have a tidy sum of more than $6 million coming to them," says C. V. Hemphill, State Chairman of the Production and Marketing Administration Committee. "CCC will begin immediately a pro rata distribution of the money, which represents proceeds from sale of the pooled cotton."

Hemphill said that distribution of the proceeds from the 1944 and 1945 crop pools will follow shortly. Payments of more than $3 million from the 1941-crop and nearly $2 million from the 1942-crop pools were distributed to 173,215 and 680,011 producers, respectively, in recent months. Any proceeds above costs to the Corporation are prorated among producers whose unredeemed cotton was placed in the pools. Costs include all advances under the loans plus storage, interest, and handling.

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FEWER CHICKS NEXT YEAR - Reductions in replacement stock are expected to result in a smaller farm laying flock by next January. Pullets will probably number from 10 to 25 million less than on January 1 of this year; hens may total the same or slightly greater. On January 1 of this year, the U. S. laying flock totaled 437 million head. Around 700 million chickens will be raised in 1947, about 5 percent less than in 1946. Perhaps 39 percent of the number will be kept.

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1946 CONSERVATION PROGRAM
DEADLINE SET FOR JUNE 30 - _____ County farmers and ranchers are reminded this week that June 30 is the last day for completing applications for payment under the 1946 Agricultural Conservation Program. Nearly all applications are in, and (many, most) of the operators already have received their payments for the federal government's share of the cost of the soil-conserving and soil-building practices carried out under the program. However, a few cooperators who took part in the program and reported the completion of their practices by December 31 have not yet (returned, stopped at the county Triple-A office to sign) their application forms. Any farmer or rancher who is in doubt about whether or not his 1946 ACP application has been signed should visit or telephone the county office at _____ before the June 30 deadline to make sure.

(MORE)

LAND IS OUR STRENGTH
SAYS USDA SECRETARY - "We draw our strength from Mother Earth--our land--our heritage," Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson said June 3 in speaking at the opening of New Hampshire's Conservation Week at Durham. Anderson said that land is our basic resource. It feeds, clothes, and shelters us as well as supplies raw materials for fully half industry's needs.

He sketched the condition of our original 550 million acres of cropland by pointing out:

*A 100 million acres no longer suitable for cultivation.
*Another 100 million in critical condition.
*A third hundred million in serious condition.
*Another 150 million subject to erosion in some degree.
*Only 100 million not in danger.

"There is a job to be done...you are recognizing that fact in this great Conservation Week," he told the group. "It is true that we have cut losses in half since our conservation programs were begun. But we have only slowed, not turned, the tide of battle."

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POULTRY COMMITTEE SUBMITS
RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS - Production and marketing of poultry and eggs come in for their share of attention in research recommendations submitted by the USDA Poultry Advisory Committee.

The committee's recent report emphasizes three fields of production research which should receive first consideration: (1) Broaden the scope of study on the efficiency and economy of selecting breeding stock to improve egg production and quality, viability, and carcass quality; (2) increase research on the nutritive requirements of poultry, since feed is more than half the cost of poultry production; and (3) seek more economical sources of protein, since protein is the most important and expensive part of the poultry diet.

Marketing recommendations include: (1) High priority should be given to research on ways and means of eliminating present heavy losses in quality and quantity during the marketing process; (2) more basic information should be obtained on the nutritional value of poultry products; and (3) markets should be expanded both here and abroad through the development of new food and other uses for poultry and its by-products.

(MORE)

WORLD CONFAB PLANNED
TO MEET FOOD SHORTAGE - A world cereals conference, to insure husbanding of home grown grain supplies by importing countries, will be sponsored by the International Emergency Food Council this summer.

In his letter to the IEFC suggesting the meeting, Secretary Anderson pointed out that the world will probably face a repetition next spring and summer of the food crisis now confronting many countries. While the United States has another bumper wheat crop this year, the increase over last year will not offset the decline which now seems certain in food grain production in Western Europe. Anderson added that there is no assurance that this year's corn crop in the United States will be large enough to duplicate in 1947-48 our present year's exports. The United States will continue to make available every bushel of grain that possibly can be spared, but this will probably not make up the deficits in grain importing countries, he said.

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SPEED URGED BY EXPERTS
IN FOOT-MOUTH CONTROL - All possible speed in the fight to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico has been recommended by the Department of Agriculture's advisory committee which urges that a protective fence be erected along the Mexican-United States border to prevent the unauthorized movement of animals across the line.

Grave concern was voiced about the surplus cattle in northern Mexico which normally move into the United States as feeders. Under the law, these cattle cannot now be exported to the U. S. as long as the disease is present anywhere in Mexico. Pastures and feed supplies are insufficient to support the animals and, unless relief is given soon, the disturbed economic situation in this area will seriously endanger the success of the disease-eradication campaign. An investigation was requested to find a way to help the Mexicans market the meat from those surplus animals.

Shipments from the United States under the program total 130 carloads of equipment, including trucks, jeeps, earth-moving equipment, tractors, and disinfectants. Close to 100 USDA employees are in Mexico working with Mexican Government representatives.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

6/13/47
No. 246

FARM PROGRAM NEWS

U.S. FOOD "LIFE ITSELF"
FOR PEOPLE OF EUROPE - The appreciation of the people of Europe for the assistance America has given them is the No. 1 impression reported by Elmer Starch, former Montanan who recently returned from a 6-months survey of agricultural conditions in central Europe. The survey was conducted by a group working under the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

"In spite of all the difficulties in shipping -- spoilage and transportation -- the food did get through to the people," Starch said. "Almost everyone you saw had been touched by the food distribution operations. The people were very grateful."

The European people give full credit to American food for actually saving their lives during a period of 2 months last summer when stocks were especially short. Food is still short, and people are hungry. It will be a long time before supplies are adequate, Starch reported. Transportation is poor. There is no fertilizer. In some areas, farm buildings were completely destroyed. Many acres are still mined. Lack of animal draft power hinders recovery of farm production. People in many cities are living in bomb-pocked buildings, the windows entirely devoid of glass.

According to Starch, shelter for people may not be adequate for 10 years. Transportation may improve markedly within 2 years, but it will be "many, many years until food production is restored to pre-war levels."

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June 22-28 has been designated as Home Food Preservation Week to stress the importance of making plans for canning, preserving and freezing foods in American homes this summer and fall.

(MORE)

ICELESS REEFER - An iceless refrigerator car capable of maintaining zero temperatures under summer heat conditions has been tested by the Department of Agriculture cooperating with various industry groups. This temperature, which cannot be reached in the ordinary refrigerator car, will maintain the prime quality of frozen foods.

The test car has 3-inch insulation. A system without moving parts, using anhydrous ammonia, provides the refrigeration. A single charge of the ammonia lasted 46 hours.

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'47 CARRYOVER LOW;
WHEAT CROP LARGE - Very large exports during the present marketing season are expected to reduce the carry-over of 1946 wheat on July 1 to 75 million bushels — about 25 million below last year's. Total exports of wheat and flour for the year ending June 30 may reach 375 million bushels, only slightly below last year's record 391 million bushels.

May 1 conditions indicated a record winter wheat crop of 1,026 million bushels. An average crop of 250 million bushels of spring wheat would bring the total crop to 10 percent above last year's record of 1,156 million bushels. If 800 million bushels of wheat were used in this country during 1947-48, 475 million bushels would be available either for export or for addition to carry-over in 1948.

Wheat stocks in the four principal exporting countries — the United States, Canada, Argentina, and Australia — are expected to be only slightly larger than last year's 372 million bushels, although smaller than in any other year since 1938. Foreign demand probably will again greatly exceed supplies available for export.

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The Department of Agriculture proposes that 43,000,000 acres be shifted out of cultivated crops into grass and tree crops by 1950 — changing the emphasis from commodities likely to produce surpluses to those which are nutritionally needed and in greatest demand.

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NEW BULLETIN SHOWS HOW DROUGHTS CAN BE OFFSET - Farmers can weather droughts if they start conservation farming in time — in the good years. This is the good word contained in a new bulletin issued by the Department of Agriculture.

"Drought and high winds don't always cause duststorms — it takes loose dirt to make dust," the bulletin states. "Soil that is protected with ground cover will not blow away. Soil that retains its original structure and is bound together with organic matter and crop residue is not likely to blow."

The key to saving water is to make sure that all rain that falls soaks into the ground where it can be stored for future use by crops, the bulletin points out. "When Drought Returns to the Great Plains" is the name of the publication — Farmers' Bulletin No. 1982.

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1947 WHEAT BEGINS MOVEMENT OVERSEAS -Purchases of new-crop wheat for export purposes were started on June 2 by the Commodity Credit Corporation to launch the 1947 shipping program to help war-ravaged areas overseas. Of the million bushels bought for export during the last week of May, nearly 500,000 bushels was wheat urgently requested by the War Department for occupied areas of Europe. Additional grain purchases for the period included 635,000 bushels of corn and 100,000 bushels of barley.

Grain purchases during the period July 1, 1946 to May 30, 1947 to fill export allocations now total:

Wheat	161,421,477 bushels
Corn	74,462,046 bushels
Barley	21,751,884 bushels
Oats	8,019,500 bushels
Grain Sorghums	2,375,000 bushels

Flour purchases in this same period amount to slightly more than 3 billion pounds.

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MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT
ATTACKING FOOT-MOUTH - One hundred and thirty carloads of heavy equipment have been sent to Mexico for use in foot-and-mouth disease control activities. Much of the equipment is U. S. Army surplus. Equipment already received includes 10-track type gasoline-powered shovels for rapid digging of burial pits; 10 bulldozers to fill pits; 100 jeeps to transport personnel and light supplies; 121 high-wheeled trucks; three ambulances for use as paymaster offices; three tank cars for disinfectants; 22 mobile spray units; and 5 semi-trailers for hauling shovels and bulldozers.

Other items include 242,000 pounds of soda ash for disinfecting purposes; protective clothing, rubber boots, and gloves. Grounds and buildings at the old National Agricultural College in Mexico City have been made available for use as a machinery assembly and maintenance center.

FARM NEWS SHORTS

Windrowed hay will collect only a fifth as much rain as the same amount of hay in the swath, while sun and dew have less chance to affect it also, report USDA haymakers.

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Southwest cotton land which loses soil at the rate of 15 tons per acre each year it is in cotton will lose an average of only 34 pounds per acre when under a good cover of grass.

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It takes as much as one-fifth less fuel to run a tractor on the contour than up and down hill, according to USDA field tests.

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Illinois agricultural college records show farmers who practice conservation farming average $1400 more per year income than other farmers on the same kind of land who do not use conservation methods.

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Poorer lands are the hardest to keep in place when moisture drops and winds begin to blow, say AAA committeemen from Southern Great Plains States.

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Editorial from the
Roswell Record,
Roswell, New Mexico
June 1, 1947

SAVING MANKIND - Proposals of the national congress to slash appropriations for the agricultural department, making a deep dent in that part set aside for conservation measures, calls to mind that this country's conservation program, begun a century too late, is a program primarily to save mankind.

And since the problem is one upon which the welfare of the individual hinges in future years, it is not only important that appropriations be kept up at a high peak, but that individual citizens interest themselves in the matter sufficiently to press for sufficient funds to carry on proposed programs, and to widen them out as necessity demands.

This country was hardly aware of the low state to which its land preservation had fallen until May 12, 1934, when a cloud composed of topsoil of large parts of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado, and perhaps a little of New Mexico, blotted out the sun over a large portion of the country.

That was loss of fertile soil which could be understood by even the city dweller, who had not been much interested in land conservation because he didn't know anything about it.

However, there were thousands of others in this country who knew that the land had been wasting away for generations because it had not been taken care of with a view to a long-time production period. The men who owned most of the land were too closely related to the pioneers, who cleared a patch of land, sometimes wore it out and moved on to another country where land was free and would produce bountifully for a few years, while the top soil was new and full of the elements which produce abundant vegetation.

In that latter group are men and women who know that the conservation of the food producing lands of America is a program of saving mankind by saving the rapidly shrinking sources of its life. As one writer puts it: "This is essentially the

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problem of saving the remaining good lands of the world. And this, in turn, is chiefly a matter of arousing the people to see their situation before it is too late."

Some one has figured it out that it takes from 300 to 1,000 years to build an inch of top soil. But it can be worn out and its food producing value destroyed in less than a generation. That's the pitiful part about cutting down on the national program of conservation. It loses too much time out of a long process.

Since we have been slow in getting started in conservation of soil, we have not only allowed our food supply in this country to be threatened, but we have brought down some attendant evils that go along with soil waste: All kinds of social, economic and political problems have developed because of an unbalanced economy resulting from soil waste, and lowered production per acre of land.

It is amazing to learn that in a normal season erosion from wind and water removes 21 times as much plant food from the nation's soil as is removed in the crops sold off the land. Some program has to be kept in operation that will prevent a part of that loss, and restore as much of it as possible if our economy, now based upon the soil, is to continue to provide food and wealth for the whole nation.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

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No. 247

FARM PROGRAM NEWS

FARM EXPORTS PASS BILLION MARK - Agricultural exports by the U. S. during the first quarter of 1947 were valued at 913 million dollars, 8 percent higher than during the same quarter of last year. This includes UNRRA shipments. With military shipments of foods for foreign civilians, total agricultural exports reached more than one billion dollars.

During 1946, farm exports totaled 3,136 million dollars, four times the prewar average. Foodstuffs accounted for 68 percent of the total, compared with only 36 percent during 1935-39.

Little change is indicated in the world food supply for 1947-48, so U. S. exports in 1947 are expected to be only a little less than in 1946. The size of U. S. crops, availability of financing for purchases by foreign nations, and changes in foreign food supplies will be determining factors.

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FARMERS ARE LARGE FOOD PURCHASERS - Nearly a fifth of a farmer's cash outlay for various commodities is for food, according to an article in a recent BAE Agricultural Situation.

Farmers last year spent about 2-3/4 billion dollars for food. This was equal to about an eighth of all the sales in retail food stores. Although most farmers still produce a good deal of the food they eat, food prices are important in figuring the farm budget.

(MORE)

CONFERENCE CONSIDERS
INCREASED LAND PRICES - "While the farming industry is financially strong, the fact remains that thousands of farmers have incurred heavy debts to purchase farms at inflated prices. Many of them are likely to find themselves in difficulty when farm incomes decline to more normal levels."

This word of warning was part of the address with which Secretary of Agriculture Anderson opened the conference on Farm Real Estate Prices held at Washington June 9.

Other points in the current farm land price situation brought out by the Secretary were:

Farm land values in the United States have risen from a 1935-1939 base-period average of 100 percent to 192 percent on March 1 of this year.

Land sales during the last four years were up 75 percent over prewar.

In one out of seven farm land sales last year, loans were 75 percent of the sales price. This meant mortgages were 50 percent higher than the 1941 sales value of the land.

In one out of three farm sales last year, the mortgage was equal to the 1941 value of the land.

About half of the land sales last year were for cash.

Early in the war most of the farm land was bought by farmers, but this trend has slowed down.

Even though there is a dangerous parallel between the current situation and the aftermath of World War I, total farm indebtedness is still relatively light, with debt only one-tenth of assets.

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BEST FRESH FOOD BUYS -- Onions, potatoes and grapefruit head this week's list of best fresh food buys in markets throughout the Southwest. Other popular favorites also in abundant supply are green beans, squash, oranges, carrots, lettuce and lemons.

(MORE)

SURPLUS POTATOES

STILL AVAILABLE - Surplus early potatoes may still be obtained without cost by public and charitable institutions, _____, chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee says.

The potatoes are those which the U. S. Department of Agriculture is directed by the Steagall Amendment to purchase as a part of the 90-percent-of-parity price support operations, _____ explained. In its intensive campaign to make these potatoes available for human use before spoilage starts, the Department will pay rail transportation costs for carload lots requested by eligible institutions.

Chairman _____ described such organizations as follows: Charitable institutions operated at no profit and supported by tax grants or donations at no cost to recipients; and agencies distributing food for school lunch programs.

The chairman said his office will furnish full information as to how and where the surplus potatoes can be obtained.

Of the 188,000 bushels which the Department has been directed to purchase so far this year, 80 percent have been No. 2 or B grade. The Department has found useful outlets for all but 24,000 bushels of this total. However, more surplus potatoes may pile up as the harvest progresses.

The surplus situation in early potatoes, according to a recent statement by the Department, should not be as troublesome this year as last, since this year's early crop is indicated at about 30 million bushels less than last year's 85.5 million.

Although No. 2 and B grade potatoes are discounted on the market, they are entirely satisfactory for human consumption if they can be moved before spoilage sets in.

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AN ACCIDENT, like a headache, or stomachache or pain in the chest is a symptom indicating that something is wrong.

(MORE)

DEADLINE FOR '46 ACP PAYMENTS ANNOUNCED - Farmers and ranchers have only a few more days in which to file applications for payment for soil and water conservation and erosion control practices carried out under the 1946 ACP, Chairman _____ of the _____ County Committee said today. June 30 is the last day that county offices can accept such applications. There are still a number of farmers and ranchers in the county who have qualified for money under last year's program who have not filed applications. _____ urges these cooperators to contact the county ACA office before the closing date of June 30.

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NO CHANGE IN EGG SUPPORTS FOR JULY - Government price supports on eggs in the Midwest will continue during July at prices reflecting an average of 35 cents a dozen to producers. This is the same as the May and June support.

Processors who sell dried or frozen eggs to the Department of Agriculture under its current price-support program must certify that they have paid producers support prices for all the shell eggs they buy.

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CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE ESTIMATED AT $500 MILLION - U. S. farmers' protection under the Federal Crop Insurance program for the 1947 crop year is estimated to be more than a half billion dollars for the Nation.

Crops covered for 1947 are wheat, cotton, flax, corn, and tobacco. Wheat, cotton, and flax are on a nationwide basis, while corn and tobacco were insured under an experimental program in a limited number of counties. Insurance was written on one or more crops in nearly two-thirds of the Nation's counties.

For all crops, the insurance is against loss caused by any natural hazard. In general, insurance contracts protect the amount of money farmers have invested in their crops.

Legislation, now pending, may alter the program's future operations, but these changes will not affect crop insurance contracts covering 1947 crops.

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BRIEF BUT IMPORTANT

CCC LOANS ON 1946 CROP COTTON - Through May 31, 1947, 143,261 bales of 1946 crop cotton were placed in government loan.

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PRICES — Prices of butter, lard and edible vegetable oils declined substantially after mid-March and by mid-May most were below the averages for any month since last October when price ceilings were removed.

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BOX CARS -- During February, March and April, installation of new and repaired box cars averaged above 1,500 a month, while an average of well over 2,000 cars a month were retired from service.

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FERTILITY OF OUR SOIL — We are about to realize that good health lies very near to good soil, properly balanced for the growth of the particular plant growing in it. When this realization matures to its fullness each and every one will assume his share of the responsibility in the maintenance of the fertility of our soil, and thereby, the better health of both man and beast.

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JUNE 1 CROP REPORT -- The June 1 report indicates a total wheat production of 1,409,893,000 bushels which is 254,000,000 bushels larger than last year and the fourth consecutive crop over a billion bushels.

Spring wheat production of 316,822,000 bushels is indicated. This is 12 percent above last year and 34 percent above the 10-year average.

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FRESH AND FROZEN FISH put on abundant foods list for July. Prices of some species of fresh and frozen fish off more than 50 percent from September and October 1946 highs. Prices of most species now below old OPA ceilings.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

6/27/47
No. 248

FARM PROGRAM NEWS

LOANS, PURCHASE AGREEMENTS
OFFERED ON '47 WHEAT CROP - "Both purchase agreements and commodity loans will be available to growers on their 1947 wheat crops under the Department of Agriculture's Price Support Program", according to Gray Barton, Wheat Specialist for the Production and Marketing Administration. "Purchase agreements," he said, "will be offered growers through December 31, 1947. Under these agreements, farmers will be able to sell wheat to the Commodity Credit Corporation at a price corresponding to loan rates." Barton explained that farmers may elect to sell any quantity of eligible wheat to CCC during the 60 day period following April 30, 1948, the maturity date of wheat loans. He said that loan rates on the 1947 crop wheat will be based on 90 percent of parity as of July 1, 1947. These rates will also reflect freight and handling charges. Only wheat grading number 3 or better, or number 4 or number 5 because of test weight only, will be eligible for loan or purchase. In general, the loan program will operate the same as in 1946. Barton added that interim wheat loans are also available to wheat growers in New Mexico and other Southwestern states, where harvest is under way before July 1, the date on which loan rates are established for the coming marketing year. These rates are based on an established parity price of $2.00 per bushel and will be adjusted when the official loan rates are announced.

(MORE)

WHEAT STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION - "Problems of transporting and storing the largest wheat crop in American history are increasing with each day of harvesting", _____, Chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee, said today. "The number of freight cars suitable for hauling wheat and the amount of storage space certainly hasn't increased over last year and yet we probably will have about _____ percent more wheat", the chairman said.

"Each county Agricultural Conservation Committee office in the wheat-producing areas act as a 'nerve-center' which relays to Washington spot information about where storage is lacking and where transportation is most needed. With this information, officials in Washington endeavor to channel cars to the danger points. Schedules are planned so that each car will keep rolling as much of the time as possible."

The chairman said that "to save both storage and transportation practically all of the first 'wave' of the huge crop — that produced in the Southwest — is being moved to Gulf ports and will go to foreign countries where it will be used immediately. Early harvested wheat deteriorates rapidly when piled on the ground, and soon becomes unfit for export."

The Texas winter wheat crop alone will be around 142,400,000 bushels. When you compare this with the 62,916,000 bushels produced in Texas last year and with the 1936-45 average of 41,287,000 bushels, you can see what a tremendous hauling and storage problem there will be this year. The two other early wheat states, Oklahoma and Kansas, also have far bigger crops than last year. New Mexico's winter wheat production is expected to top 8 million bushels as compared with about 2-1/2 million last year.

(MORE)

ACP USED ONE-THIRD 1945
PHOSPHATE PRODUCTION - A large proportion of the nation's total phosphate production—one-third in 1945—is used by farmers in cooperating with the Agricultural Conservation Program to improve the long-term value of the soil's resources.

Farmers spread 19 times more phosphate under the ACP in 1945 than they did in 1936, the first year of the program. Less than 4 percent of the 1936 production of phosphate was spread under ACP.

During the 10-year period, 1936-45, the production of phosphate increased 2-1/3 times from the 3,136,000 tons produced in 1936 to over 7,300,000 tons in 1945. These figures are on a basis of 20-percent superphosphate.

Phosphorus is one of the elements necessary for plant growth. Of the total amount in the soil, only a small percentage is in a form readily available for use by plants. Cropping and erosion result in a continuous removal of the most available soil phosphorus.

While farmers apply large amounts of phosphate to cash crops outside the program, a greatly increased proportion is now being applied under the ACP program to get more luxuriant growth of such soil-conserving and soil-building crops as clover, alfalfa, and other legumes. The heavier growth of these crops protects the soil against wind and water erosion and at the same time returns more vegetable matter and nitrogen to the soil.

The largest amount of phosphate spread under the ACP has been in the North Central states with the Southern states next. Estimates by county Agricultural Conservation committees show that over 5 times as much should be spread annually on soil-conserving and soil-building crops throughout the Nation.

(MORE)

GRAIN PURCHASE
FIGURES ANNOUNCED - The purchase of approximately 11¼ million bushels of wheat to meet foreign allocations, during the week ending June 13, brought total Government purchases since July 1, 1946 to more than 176½ million bushels.

Other grain items purchased since July 1 include in round figures 3 billion pounds of flour, 76 million bushels of corn, 22 million bushels of barley, 8 million bushels of oats, and 2 million of grain sorghums.

The Department also has announced a total export quota of approximately 53 million bushels of wheat and other grains for the month of August. The July quota was about 58½ million bushels.

The August figure includes amounts to be supplied through trade channels as well as through Department purchases.

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HIGH RETAIL MEAT PRICES NOT
DUE TO EXPORTS, SAYS ANDERSON - Meat exports have not caused the recent sharp increases in the retail price of meat, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson told the Business Advisory Council meeting in Washington.

Export shipments of meat from U. S. supplies are so small that they should have no significant effect on domestic meat prices, either at wholesale or retail levels, the Secretary said. Allocations for commercial export during the current quarter amount to only about 155 million pounds - about 3 percent of U. S. production.

Furthermore, the general meat supply situation is good. Meat production in 1947 is estimated at 23 billion pounds--the fourth largest output on record. Production for the current quarter was earlier forecast at about 5 billion pounds, but has been running ahead of the estimate.

Neither are prices farmers have been receiving for livestock responsible for higher retail prices. The trend in live animal prices has been upward the past couple of weeks, but little has occurred to warrant sharp increases in retail meat prices.

An important factor not to be overlooked in the situation is the continuing strong consumer demand for meat, the Secretary concluded.

(MORE)

USDA OFFERS CLOVER SEED FOR SALE - The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced an offer to sell 211,500 pounds of Alyce clover seed at $16 per 100 pounds in the warehouse at Dunnellen, Florida. This price applies to the best quality seed. Appropriate discounts will be made for seed of lower quality. Persons interested in the purchase of this seed should communicate with the Commodity Credit Corporation, 212 W. 14th St., Kansas City 8, Missouri.

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FARM NEWS SHORTS

THERE WERE 11,394,000 persons employed on farms throughout the nation on June 1. 2,481,000 of this number were hired workers. 8,913,000 were operators and unpaid members of their families.

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B.A.E. HATCHERY report issued June 16 indicates an increase in baby chick output for May to be above that of May, 1946; a 65 percent increase in the number of eggs in commercial hatcheries on June 1 is indicated as compared with June 1 a year ago.

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PLANT A home garden, says Paul C. Stark, Director of the National Garden Program. There is still time to plant most vegetables, and successive plantings can be made throughout the summer.

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OVER 800,000 carloads of perishable foods pass through 20,000,000 wholesale fruit, vegetable and poultry markets each year. This volume would fill two freight trains stretching from coast to coast.

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